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**INDONESIA**

## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF DECENTRALIZED BASIC EDUCATION



Photo: Jill Gulliksen

### THE CHALLENGE

At least 30% of teachers lack appropriate training; only 40% of children who enroll in primary school complete the 9 years of basic education.

Local governments are poorly prepared to manage the recently decentralized education systems.

Public funding for education is the lowest in the region.

### The Goal

Support a decentralized effort for **quality** education;

Encourage the Indonesian government to increase its **investment** in education;

Support Indonesia's **democratic transition**;

Expand an educated **workforce** that will promote international investment and stability.

### OVERVIEW

The \$157 million Basic Education Initiative, announced by President Bush, is the cornerstone of the U.S. government assistance program in Indonesia for 2004-2009. The program directly responds to Government of Indonesia's priorities and reflects joint Indonesia-U.S commitment to revitalizing education for the next generation of Indonesia's leaders.

Indonesia's students consistently score low on international and regional tests for math and science due in large part to the uneven quality of teaching and learning. Improving education service delivery, how teachers teach and students learn, and the relevance of work and life skills will ultimately lead to more promising futures and sustainable jobs for Indonesia's youth, resulting in a stable and productive society.

### PROGRAMS

#### MANAGING BASIC EDUCATION (MBE)

The MBE project is working with local governments to strengthen their capacity to effectively manage basic education services in 10 districts in East and Central Java (20 districts by 2005). MBE is also working with 2,600 educators to improve the quality of teaching and learning in grades 1-9 through in-service teacher training, community participation, and the promotion of school-based management. MBE directly reaches 200 schools (20% are madrassah) and 70,000 students, and serves as a pilot for the new Indonesia Education Initiative.

#### DECENTRALIZED BASIC EDUCATION

The Indonesia Education Initiative will increase the quality of basic education in primary and junior secondary public and private schools, focusing on three results:

- Local governments and communities more effectively manage education services;
- Enhanced quality of teaching and learning improves student performance in key subjects (math, science, reading);
- Youth gain more relevant life and work skills to better compete for jobs in the future.

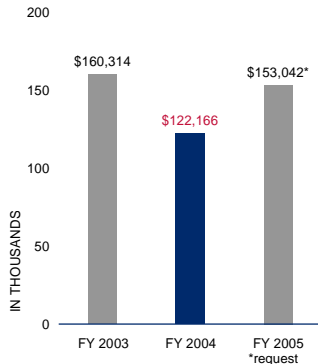


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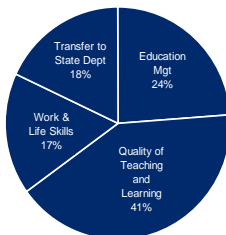
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### USAID ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA



Funding: Child Survival and Health Funds, Development Assistance, Economic Support Funds, PL 480 Title II (includes emergency and non-emergency food aid)

FY 2004 Budget for Education  
Percentage for Each Program Area



Total FY 2004 for Education: \$22,800,000

These programs through direct assistance and dissemination of best practices are expected to reach 4,500 public and private schools, 4 million students, 55,000 educators, and one million out-of-school youth.

Complementing basic education programs, a component of the overall Indonesia Education Initiative under the leadership of the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section will focus on strengthening higher education, through educational scholarships and exchanges, English teacher development, and fostering relationships between U.S. and Indonesian universities.

USAID will facilitate public-private alliances to mobilize corporate sector resources and capabilities for education and enhance the impact of the Indonesia Education Initiative, in critical areas such as information technology and communications, early childhood development, teacher training, and non-formal work and life skills.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Active learning methodologies are being effectively applied in 100 schools. Children are more engaged in the learning process working together and beginning to think more critically. One MBE teacher noted that the children "enjoy sitting in groups to discuss their work and solve problems together...and are proud when their work is displayed."

Community and parental involvement is on the rise. Parent volunteers are in classrooms and helping with physical improvements to schools. School committees are actively managing schools in 80% of participating schools.

More effective district level management of education services has resulted in more accurate school mapping, greater citizen participation in planning and budgeting, and more rational allocations of funding for schools.

Local governments in other parts of Indonesia have introduced best practice models from MBE schools to 900 additional schools using their own resources (sustainability).

[www.mbeproject.net](http://www.mbeproject.net)

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